



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203  
(410) 962-2809  
Fax: (410) 962-3660

# News Release

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Contact: Mary Beth Thompson or Doug Garman,  
410-962-2809  
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## Memorial Day's approach sees progress on planning Pentagon Memorial

**Baltimore** – As the first Memorial Day since the terrorist attacks draws near, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced plans for an open competition to select a design for an outdoor memorial on the grounds of the Pentagon. The Congressionally authorized memorial will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack at that building.

The selection of a location for the memorial was also made recently by Washington Headquarters Services Director David O. (DOC) Cooke. Cooke chose a site near the point of impact after review of the Corps' "Site Selection Report." Washington Headquarters Services is the agency that manages the Pentagon. (Aerial photo with selected site indicated is available at Pentagon Memorial web site.)

Family members of the victims, a Family Steering Committee, were involved in an evaluation of 10 potential sites conducted by the Corps. In the words of one family member of the committee, "The site was selected on September 11." Strong family support for this site weighed heavily with Pentagon officials involved in the site selection.

The chosen site is being used as a staging area for the Phoenix Project, the reconstruction of the Pentagon. Some construction support activities will be moved to accommodate development of the memorial site.

"We will hold a wide open and fair competition for a concept design as part of our commitment to the victims, their families and the American people to build a first-rate memorial," said Col. Charles J. Fiala Jr., the Corps of Engineers' Baltimore District engineer. The Corps' Baltimore District is managing the Pentagon Memorial project.

"It will be a two-stage design competition," said project manager Carol Anderson-Austra. "Initially, all entries will be judged, and perhaps a half-dozen semi-finalists will be chosen. These concept designs will then be further developed before a final design selection is made."

"A jury of highly-respected professionals will select the final design, with input from the victims' families and others and with Pentagon review," Anderson-Austra said.

Any individual or team may enter the competition.

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Family members of the victims were also involved in the memorial planning process. In identifying qualities the memorial should evoke, they used these words: *peaceful, serene, poignant, not ostentatious, strength, life, eternity, honor, class, sadness, tragic senselessness, renewed hope, inspire, embracing, enduring, courage, calm*. They used these phrases: *understand the enormity of the attack, death is equal, shouldn't tell you what to think, brought the country together, effect should be positive, strength and endurance of the memorial should complement the strength of the Pentagon*.

Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense to establish a memorial at the Pentagon Reservation dedicated to the victims of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon in the Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act. In October, the Department of Defense asked the Army, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to provide technical services to establish the memorial. The Corps has constructed and renovated many of the nation's memorials.

Further information on the design competition will be available in June. General information about the Pentagon Memorial project can be found at <http://pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil>.

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**Baltimore District's website:** <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>